

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-13 Cancelled

14. (New) A process comprising:  
enhancing the passivation of V and Ni present in an oil refining process or in a Fischer-Tropsch process by contacting the V and Ni with catalytic amounts of a catalyst, such catalyst derived from a solution comprising (i) a trivalent metal salt (ii) a divalent salt and (iii) a compound different from (i) and (ii) and selected from the group consisting of rare earth metal compounds, phosphorous compounds and transition metal compounds, wherein a sodium-free base is used to precipitate (i), (ii) and (iii) from the solution, and wherein the catalyst contains (iii) in an amount that is more than 18 wt%, calculated as the oxide and based on the total weight of the catalyst.
15. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein the precipitate is aged without anionic clay being formed.
16. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein (i) is selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, Fe, Cr and mixtures thereof.
17. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein (ii) is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Ba, Zn, Ni, Cu, Co, Fe, Mn and mixtures thereof.
18. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein (iii) is selected from Cu, Zn, Zr, Ti, Ni, Co, Fe, Mn, Cr, Mo, W, V, Pt, Ru, Rh, Ce, La and mixtures thereof.
19. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein (iii) is present in an amount of from about 18 to about 60 wt%.

20. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein (ii) is Mg and the MgO reflection at 43° 2-theta in the Powder X-Ray Diffraction pattern measured with CuK- $\alpha$  radiation has a full width at half maximum of less than 1.5° 2-theta.
21. (New) The process of claim 20 wherein the full width at half maximum is less than 1.0° 2-theta, preferably less than 0.6° 2-theta, more preferably less than 0.4° 2-theta.
22. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein the catalyst additionally comprises a matrix or filler material and a molecular sieve.
23. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein the oil refining process is a fluid catalytic cracking process.
24. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein oil refining process reduces SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> in the regenerator of an FCC unit.
25. (New) The process of claim 14 wherein the oil refining process is process for reducing sulfur and nitrogen contents in gasoline.